

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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SUBJ: VISIT OF U.S. MAYORS

1. SUMMARY. FIDEL CASTRO REAFFIRMS HIS INTEREST IN
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH US AND INDICATES THAT
HE WOULD WELCOME MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER END SUMMARY.

2. UNITED STATES MAYORS CONFERENCE DELEGATION OF APPROXIMATELY
ONE-HUNDRED PEOPLE (INCLUDING 19 MAYORS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-
SIZED CITIES, 30-40 CITY COUNCILMEN, AND 15 PRESS AND
TELEVISION REPRESENTATIVES) DEPARTED CUBA, JUNE 28, AFTER
ONE-WEEK WHIRLWIND TOUR OF PUBIC FACILITIES, BEACHES, AND
HISTORICAL SITES (INCLUDING BAY OF PIGS).

3. FIDEL CASTRO OFFERED RECEPTION FOR GROUP, JUNE 27, IN
PROTOCOL HOUSE. CUBAN LEADER WAS IN HIGH SPIRITS AND HELD
SEPARATE ENCOUNTERS WITH MAYORS, CITY COUNCILMEN, AND
ATTRACTIVE WOMEN IN GROUP. CASTRO'S MESSAGE WAS SIMPLE--
HE WISHES TO MOVE TOWARD NORMALIZATION WITH US. MAYORS
DID NOT RAISE AFRICAN OR OTHER TOUCHY US-CUBAN
PROBLEMS AND CASTRO ALSO AVOIDED THESE MATTERS.

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4. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION SESSION WITH MAYORS, CASTRO
ADDRESSED FOLLOWING MATTERS:

--MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. CASTRO SAID THAT, BEFORE MAYORS'
VISIT, QUESTION OF MEETING WITH US PRESIDENT HAD BEEN RASIED BY
VISITING CONGRESSMAN BEILENSEN. CASTRO SAID THAT HE WOULD VERY

MUCH WELCOME PRESIDENTIAL MEETING, BUT HE REALIZES THAT PRESIDENT CARTER MIGHT HAVE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS. HE JOGULARLY REMARKED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS TO "CHECK WITH" MORE PEOPLE REGARDING POLITICAL ACCEPTABILITY OF SUCH A MEETING THAN HE (CASTRO) DOES.

--PUERTO RICO. CASTRO SAID THAT CUBA FAVORS INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO, BUT WILL ACCEPT ANY STATUS CHOSEN BY PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE. HE DENIED ANY CONNECTION WITH PUERTO RICAN TERRORISTS.

-- NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION. CASTRO SAID THAT CUBA HAS NO INTENTION OF MANUFACTURING ANY NUCLEAR DEVICES AND SAID THAT SPENT FUEL FROM PLANNED NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING STATION COULD BE SENT BACK TO SUPPLIER (I.E. SOVIET UNION). (COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE HAD OF SPENT FUEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROJECTED CIENFUEGOS NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING STATION. CASTRO'S REMARKS SUGGEST AHT SOVIETS ARE PLANNING TO MODEL THEIR SPENT FUEL ARRANGEMENTS ON BASIS OF EAST EUROPEAN PRECEDENT.)

--FOREIGN INVESTMENT. CUBANS CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED, PARTICULARLY IN TOURISM AREA, AND WILL STUDY PROPOSALS ON CAS-BY-CASE BASIS.

--CUBAN ROLE IN LATIN AMERICA. CASTRO SAID THAT US BLAMES CUBA FOR ALL THE PROBLEMS OF LATIN AMERICA. HE DECLARED CUBA INNOCENT OF EFFORTS TO SUBVERT THE HEMISPHERE. (COMMENT: AFTER MONTHS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFRICAN FUROR, CASTRO WAS PRESUMABLY SEEKING TO ACCENT THE POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN CUBAN FOREIGN POLICY.)

5. COMMENT: MAYOR'S VISIT, WHILE LARGELY NON-SUBSTANTIVE, DEMONSTRATED AGAIN THAT CASTRO IS HIGHLY INTERESTED IN RESTORING FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE TO US-CUBAN RELATIONS--PARTICULARLY IF ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED TO TAKE LOWER-KEY LINE ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS. CASTRO'S ASSISTANTS AT JUNE 27 RECEPTION EMPHASIZED TO US IMPORTANCE OF CUBAN LEADER'S FAVORABLE PUBLIC REMARKS ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS VARIOUS GESTURES ON BILATERAL AFFAIRS (DUAL NATIONAL EMIGRATION, POLITICAL PRISONERS.) GLASSMAN

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